

My name is LaQuincy Franklin. I have 2 children at Amistad Academy.

Our worth as human beings shouldn't be based on our financial net worth. So I'm here pleading with the general assembly to fund all public schools fairly.

Public charter school students are vastly underfunded compared to other public school students in CT. We have held rallies, gotten petitions, and have come to these capital steps many times as we ask for the tax dollars we pay our town to go toward our children in their public schools that just happen to be charter.

Yet it seems as though we are being punished with less funding for wanting our children to have a valuable education using the charter system which is proven to work.

I grew up in New Haven. I went to public and private schools. So I've personally experienced the vast differences in our educational system. I've witnessed how the lack of a quality education can affect life in ways that's nearly impossible to bounce back from.

Unfortunately in Connecticut where you live dictates the quality of a free public education. Everyone can't afford to move into towns with great traditional public schools. So the inner city kids start the race even further behind. But this is where charter schools change the game.

When it was time for my oldest to sign up for school, we only put Amistad Academy & Elm City Prep on the lottery forms & left that 3rd spot blank. There wasn't a traditional public school in NH that gave us the same confidence in not just a quality education but also quality character enrichment.

My daughter was able to read after 2 weeks in kindergarten. At that time my niece was in first grade at a regular NH public school. My daughter quickly passed my niece in reading. I actually would give my niece copies of my daughter's homework to help her advance. My 7 year old is college minded already. He knows the names of more colleges than most adults. And both my kids speak of when they go to college not if they go.

My kids are working to beat the odds thanks to a charter school. There is still so much potential in my kids & the kids of everyone represented here. Why should kids be funded differently? Aren't they worth it?